

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1,2, 4-10, 20-30, 32, 34-37, 39-44, 46, 48-51, 53-58, cancel claims 12-19, 33, 38, 47, and 52, all as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

1 1. (Currently amended) A system to provide conversation states, comprising:
2 a first computing device capable of accepting a message ~~for~~ during a conversation
3 between the first computing device and a conversation partner;
4 a second computing device capable of:
5 maintaining ~~the a state for a~~ requested by the conversation message; and
6 storing information of the state in memory; and
7 a conversation manager capable of:
8 identifying the location of the second computing device which maintains
9 the state ~~for a~~ requested by the message conversation; and
10 providing the location and/or the information of the state to the first
11 computing device.

1 2. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the first and second computing devices form a cluster.

1 3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of maintaining the locations of all states in
3 the system.

1 4. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein:
2 ~~a computing device is capable of maintaining its state~~ the information, ~~which~~ may
3 include, ~~but is not limited to,~~ a map of every state leased, owned, or stored on the second
4 computing device ~~it.~~

1 5. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4-1, wherein:

2 ~~a computing device is capable of maintaining its state information in memory~~ the
3 first and second computing devices can be the same computing device.

1 6. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4-1, wherein:
2 a the second computing device is capable of maintaining ~~its state~~ the information
3 both in-memory and on persistent storage.

1 7. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4-1, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of designating the second computing device
3 as the primary and replicating the state information on at least one primary the
4 second computing device ~~can be replicated to one secondary~~ a third computing
5 device.

1 8. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 7, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of routing to ~~the secondary~~ the third
3 computing device and setting it as the new primary when the second ~~primary~~
4 computing device fails.

1 9. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of periodically determining the availability of
3 the second and third computing devices.

1 10. (Currently amended) A system to provide conversation for Web service, comprising:
2 a conversation partner capable of providing a message ~~for~~ during a conversation
3 between the conversation partner and a first computing device;
4 a said first computing device capable of accepting a message ~~for a~~ during the
5 conversation with the conversation partner;
6 a second computing device capable of:
7 maintaining ~~the a state for a~~ requested by the conversation message; and
8 storing information of the state in memory; and

9 a conversation manager capable of:
10 identifying the location of the second computing device which maintains
11 the state ~~for a~~ requested by the message conversation; and
12 providing the location and/or the information of the state to the first
13 computing device.

1 11. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein:

2 the message includes a conversation ID.

1 12. (Canceled).

1 13. (Canceled).

1 14. (Canceled).

1 15. (Canceled).

1 16. (Canceled).

1 17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Canceled).

1 19. (Canceled).

1 20. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein:

2 a the first computing device is capable of contacting the conversation manager to
3 determine the location of a the state requested by the message using the
4 conversation ID.

1 21. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 a the first computing device is capable of answering a request for a the state
3 directly without contacting the conversation manager if it owns such state.

1 22. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of accepting a request for the location of a
3 the state from a the first computing device.

1 23. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of providing the location and/or the
3 information of a the state to a the first computing device requesting it based on the
4 conversation ID.

1 24. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 a the first computing device is capable of accepting the location of a the state
3 from the conversation manager.

1 25. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 a the first computing device is capable of invoking a the state on a the second
3 computing device in order to respond to a the conversation message received.

1 26. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of sharing a the state with at least two
3 conversations.

1 27. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein:
2 the conversation manager is capable of tracking a participating Web service that
3 initiates the conversation.

1 28. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein:

2 the conversation manager is capable of sharing a the state with at least two Web
3 services and joining the sessions of these services.

1 29. (Currently amended) A method to provide a conversation for a Web service,
2 comprising:

3 maintaining a state on a computing device;

4 storing information of the state in memory on the computing device;

5 accepting a ~~conversation~~ message requesting the state during a conversation with
6 ~~from~~ a conversation partner;

7 contacting a conversation manager to determine the location of the state ~~for a~~
8 requested by the conversation message;

9 accepting the location and/or the information of a the state from the conversation
10 manager; and

11 invoking a the state on a the computing device in order to respond to the
12 conversation message ~~received~~.

1 30. (Currently amended) A method to provide a conversation for a Web service,
2 comprising:

3 maintaining a state on a computing device;

4 storing information of the state in memory on the computing device;

5 accepting a ~~conversation~~ message requesting the state during a conversation with
6 ~~from~~ a conversation partner; and

7 invoking a the state on a the computing device in order to respond to the
8 conversation message received directly at the computing device without
9 contacting the a conversation manager ~~if the computing device owns such state~~.

1 31. (Original) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:

2 maintaining the locations of all states in the system on the conversation manager.

1 32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:

2 maintaining on a the computing device its state information, which may include,
3 ~~but is not limited to~~, a map of every state leased, owned, or stored on it.

1 33. (Canceled).

1 34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, further comprising:
2 maintaining the state information on a the computing device both in-memory and
3 on persistent storage.

1 35. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, further comprising:
2 designating the computing device as the primary and replicating the state
3 information on ~~at least one primary~~ the computing device to ~~one secondary~~
4 another computing device.

1 36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:
2 routing to the ~~secondary~~ another computing device; and
3 setting it as the new primary when the current primary computing device fails.

1 37. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:
2 determining the availability of the computing devices periodically.

1 38. (Canceled).

1 39. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:
2 accepting request for the location of a the state from a computing device; and
3 providing the location of the state to the computing device requesting it.

1 40. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:
2 sharing a the state ~~for~~ with at least two conversations.

1 41. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 29, further comprising:
2 tracking a participating Web service that initiates a the conversation.

1 42. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 41, further comprising:
2 sharing a the state with at least two Web services; and
3 joining the sessions of these services.

1 43. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 that when executed by a processor cause a system to:
3 maintain a state on a computing device;
4 store the information of the state in memory on the computing device;
5 accept a ~~conversation~~ message requesting the state during a conversation with
6 ~~from~~ a conversation partner;
7 contact a conversation manager to determine the location of the state ~~for a~~
8 requested by the ~~conversation~~ message;
9 accept the location and/or the information of a the state from the conversation
10 manager; and
11 invoke a the state on a the computing device in order to respond to the
12 conversation message ~~received~~.

1 44. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 that when executed by a processor cause a system to:
3 maintain a state on a computing device;
4 store information of the state in memory on the computing device;
5 accept a ~~conversation~~ message requesting the state during a conversation with
6 ~~from~~ a conversation partner; and
7 invoke a the state on a the computing device in order to respond to the
8 conversation message received directly at the computing device without
9 contacting ~~the a~~ conversation manager ~~if the computing device owns such state~~.

1 45. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 maintain the locations of all states in the system on the conversation manager.

1 46. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 maintain on a the computing device ~~its state~~ information, which may include, ~~but~~
4 ~~is not limited to~~, a map of every state leased, owned, or stored on it.

1 47. (Canceled).

1 48. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 46, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 maintain the state information on a the computing device both in-memory and on
4 persistent storage.

1 49. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 48, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 designating the computing device as the primary and replicating the state
4 information on ~~at least one primary~~ the computing device to ~~one secondary~~
5 another computing device.

1 50. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 49, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 route to the ~~secondary~~ another computing device; and
4 set it as the new primary when the current primary computing device fails.

1 51. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:
3 check for the availability of the computing devices periodically.

1 52. (Canceled).

1 53. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:

3 accept request for the location of a the state from a computing device; and
4 provide the location of the state to the computing device requesting it.

1 54. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:

3 share a the state ~~for~~ with at least two conversations.

1 55. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:

3 track a participating Web service that initiates a the conversation.

1 56. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium of claim 55, further comprising
2 instructions that when executed cause the system to:

3 share a the state with at least two Web services; and
4 join the sessions of these services.

1 57. (Currently amended) A system for handling conversation, comprising:

2 means for maintaining a state on a computing device;

3 means for storing information of the state in memory on the computing device;

4 means for accepting a ~~conversation~~ message requesting the state during a
5 conversation with ~~from~~ a conversation partner;

6 means for contacting a conversation manager to determine the location of the state
7 ~~for a~~ requested by the conversation message;

8 means for accepting the location and/or the information of a the state from the
9 conversation manager; and

10 means for invoking a the state on a the computing device in order to respond to
11 the conversation message ~~received~~.

1 58. (Currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium,
2 comprising:

3 a code segment including instructions to maintain a state on a computing device;

4 a code segment including instructions to store information of the state in memory
5 on the computing device;

6 a code segment including instructions to accept a ~~conversation~~ message
7 requesting the state during a conversation with ~~from~~ a conversation partner;

8 a code segment including instructions to contact a conversation manager to
9 determine the location of the state ~~for a~~ requested by the conversation message;

10 a code segment including instructions to accept the location and/or the
11 information of a the state from the conversation manager; and

12 a code segment including instructions to invoke a the state on a the computing
13 device in order to respond to the conversation message ~~received~~.